Upgradation of deep penetration Jaguar fighters

798. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status with regards to upgradation of deep penetration Jaguar Fighters and Jaguar Trainers indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore;

(b) the details of present status with regards to upgradation of Jaguar prototype with the navigation and weapon attack sub-system indigenously by HAL and Defence Avionics Research Establishment;

(c) whether Government has released sufficient funds for these projects;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Contract for upgradation of Jaguar aircraft to improve navigation and weapon aiming capabilities has been finalized with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Defence Avionics Research Establishment have jointly taken up indigenous development. The development has progressed satisfactorily.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An advance payment has been made available to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(e) Does not arise.

Contract for refit of a naval ship

799. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naval Dockyard, Mumbai awarded a contract relating to refit of a naval ship;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract was awarded to a private shipyard whose rates were not lowest nor documents complete; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The refit of INS Udaygiri was partially offloaded to Homa Engineering Works, Mumbai, a private firm. The comprehensive package included dry docking and other works like hull renewal, replacement of pipes, refitting of valves etc.

(c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in their Audit Para No. 18 of Report No. 7 of 2003, Union Government (Defence Services), Air Force and Navy have pointed out that this contract was awarded to a private firm whose rates were not lowest and whose documents were incomplete.

(d) An Action taken Note is being processed as per laid down procedure.

Sainik schools in Uttar Pradesh

†800. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) whether Government are considering to open more Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no Sainik School run by Ministry of Defence in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in this regard, has been received by the Ministry of Defence.

Crash of an IAF aircraft near Hyderabad

801. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force aircraft crashed near Hyderabad on the 6th November, 2003;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.